

Museum Tours

The museum was moved in February 2007 to dedicated space on the first floor of the Harris Arts Center. Visitors can view the museum's photographs, papers, memorabilia, and a video about the life of Hayes.



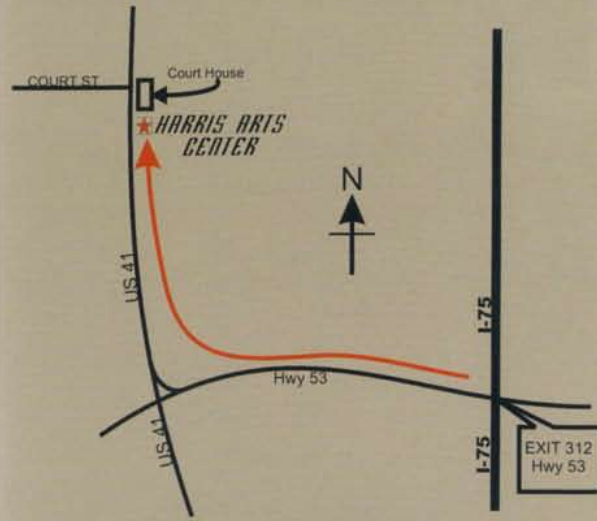
Guided tours are available by appointment to groups and individuals. Information is presented at the appropriate grade level for school groups, and teacher guides are available.

Donations, gratefully accepted, are used to improve the museum

For an appointment, call (706) 629-2599.

Roland Hayes Museum Division

The Roland Hayes Museum Committee presents an annual tribute during Black History Month showcasing both local talent and guest musicians, lecturers, or other entertainers. The committee is instrumental in the acquisition and development of additional materials for the museum. Open to every member of our community, the Roland Hayes Museum Committee welcomes and encourages all who are interested to join them in helping to celebrate, honor, and promote the life and accomplishments of this native son.



Directions

- I-75 to Exit 312 (Hwy 53)
- West on Hwy 53 approximately 1 mile
- North on US 41 into downtown Calhoun
- Arts Center / Roland Hayes Museum on east side of street.

Visit our Website

www.cgarts.org

Roland Hayes Museum

at the

Harris Arts Center

212 South Wall Street

Calhoun, Georgia 30701

(706) 629-2599

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HARRIS **ARTS** CENTER

Roland Hayes, the first African-American classical singer to have an international career on the concert stage and a son of former slaves, was born in Gordon County in 1887. Before his death in 1977, Hayes opened doors for African-American concert and opera performers and elevated spirituals to the classical level, singing them in concert with operatic arias. Hayes studied at Nashville's Fisk University and toured the United States, performing at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. His European tours included a command performance for King George V and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace. At the height of his half-century career, Hayes was one of the world's highest-paid singers. He made a number of recordings and published his music in the book *My Songs*. Hayes has been honored in many ways. Highway 156 West in Calhoun is also called Roland Hayes



Roland Hayes

Parkway. He was named to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 1991, and in 1995, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources placed a historic marker in his honor on property designated by the City of Calhoun as the Roland Hayes Park.



Calhoun Gordon Arts Council

The mission of the Calhoun Gordon Arts Council is to bring the arts to the entire community and honor the legacy of Roland Hayes. The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce in 1990 organized a committee to advocate the induction of Roland Hayes into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.



The group continued to promote the love of music and spirit of community through annual festivals. The Roland Hayes Music Guild joined forces with the Calhoun Little Theater and the Calhoun Civic Chorus in 1992, thus becoming the *Calhoun Gordon Arts Council*. The CGAC began producing and presenting various theatrical and musical productions to the community. The Visual Arts Guild later became part of the CGAC. The Arts Council continues to grow and expand its programming to meet the needs of the community. Other features include community education and outreach programs, such as "Pre-School Pops," "Arts in the Schools," youth summer camps, and an adult music services. The Cultural Outreach Committee is dedicated to incorporating ethnic diversity in our programming. The Roland Hayes Museum Division manages the museum and sponsors programs owned and operated by the CGAC to honor his legacy.

The Harris Arts Center

When the Arts Council undertook the daunting task of renovating the Rooker Hotel in 1997, the vacant 1935 structure in downtown Calhoun had become an eyesore. The Arts Council's restoration project had two goals:

- To save the Rooker, a building with historical significance while re-igniting interest in saving, preserving and investing in downtown Calhoun.
- To provide a permanent home for the Arts Council while establishing a community center dedicated to the cultural arts.

Overwhelming support from local business and corporations coupled with generous donations from individuals and local foundations made the dream a reality. The 10,000-square-foot Harris Arts Center opened in January 2000. Phase I of the Arts Center, owned and operated by the Calhoun Gordon Arts Council, featured a visual arts gallery, dance studio, art studio, music classrooms, music practice rooms, and the Roland Hayes Museum in a community room. The expansion of the Arts Center continued with the launch of Phase II in 2003. Completed in January 2004, the 10,000-square-foot addition includes the 225-seat Ratner Theater, office space, additional restrooms, an elevator, two additional gallery spaces, and lobby space.

The Harris Arts Center is an exciting, creative, and dynamic multi-use facility that serves as home to the Calhoun Community Chorus, Calhoun Little Theater, Ratner Theater, Roland Hayes Museum, Music Guild and Visual Arts Guild. The center also offers a variety of visual arts, dance, and music classes for children and adults.

